

March Newsletter 2022

Dear Supporters,

We are very happy to report that three of the trustees, Richard, Bridget and Mel have just returned from a short but very productive trip to Nabugabo.

We arrived at Entebbe and with no PCR test now required on arrival, we had a quick and easy journey through customs including the **safe collection of 8 bags totalling 200 Kg** of much needed donations and resources.

Still in the dry season, we had a somewhat dusty drive to Nabugabo. We were however greeted very warmly by our friends with bright smiles and sunny skies. As has become a custom, we met all the teachers, their partners and children down by the lake for beers and fish and chips and caught up on all the news, both in and out of school. It was wonderful to be back!

NCLC in Full Swing

School has been in full swing since early January with 135 children attending from Primary 1 to Primary 7. This is after a period of 83 weeks closure with Uganda having the world's longest pandemic related shutdown. Fortunately, the school lost very few children during the closure and this is thanks to **Irene, our Community Officer**, who worked hard keeping in touch with families and children throughout the closure, and encouraging them all back at the start of term. Irene, who is 25 and has been at NCLC since the outset, is an outstanding person who works tirelessly looking after the children from a safeguarding perspective, especially the girls, and holds regular wellbeing workshops for them and a safe place to discuss any issues or concerns.



Home Clothes and Essentials

Thanks to all our wonderful supporters, we had lots of home clothes and essentials to hand out to all the children. A huge thank you to **Tara Hogan and Gill Pollock from Pangbourne College and Annie Akers from Cheltenham College** for the wonderful collection of secondhand bras.



P7 Children and Parents



We have 16 children in the Primary 7 class and they will be sitting the Primary Leaving Exam in November which is an essential stepping stone to secondary school. During our visit, **Headteacher Vincent** hosted a useful meeting with the parents/guardians of this class to reinforce the fact that this journey to PLE is very much a three-way process with the **child, teacher and parent/guardian working together in support.**

Planned Maintenance Programme

When HUGE visited in early December, it was agreed that a planned maintenance programme would be implemented before the start of school which included works to the kitchen, staff accommodation, fencing of the Examination Hall site, and redecoration throughout. **Martin** who looks after the maintenance of the school and has been at NCLC since the outset, has been largely responsible for this and has done an excellent job in a very timely manner. We would also thank **Pangbourne College** for contributing to these essential works.



St Kizito Secondary School

One of many highlights of the trip was visiting St Kizito Secondary School, the secondary school of choice for NCLC, and being reunited with former NCLC students. Thanks to the generosity of **Pangbourne College and Beatrice Laing Trust, 28 students** are being funded via our secondary education fund. These students have certainly grown in stature and confidence, and all involved with NCLC are extremely proud of them.



Not just about Academics!

Following a long period of school closure, there is certainly pressure for catch up. HUGE is keen that there is balance, and we continue to explore all areas of a child's educational journey. We are therefore keen to reintroduce dance and drumming which will be run by Betty and proper football coaching for both girls and boys. These are both exciting initiatives and we are looking forward to supporting them in a variety of ways.



Continuing Professional Development

The cornerstone of HUGE's social purpose is to assist the teachers in their educational journey and we are therefore delighted that Vincent Head teacher is now taking his degree and teachers Daniel (Science) and Jackson (Social Studies) are now commencing the final year of their diplomas.

The Ark

The Ark is to reopen shortly with a new member of staff joining and essential works undertaken to the building. The Ark is a safe facility for a very small number of young girls who are considered at risk.

AFRIpads Schoolgirl Kit

Sotegrande International School, our partnership school in Spain, has instigated an innovative and vital fundraiser to buy reusable sanitary towels for the girls at NCLC and St Kizito. AFRIpads is a company based in Kampala, which has grown from a 3 person start up to an award-winning social enterprise that is committed to improving menstrual health and providing reusable products that best meet the needs and preferences of schoolgirls in Africa. We are extremely grateful to SIS for their constant inspiration and strong financial support.

Fundraising

We would like to thank all those schools and individuals who are carrying out fundraising activities and we would specifically like to thank **Dulwich Prep London**, whose pupils took part in a readathon and raised a fantastic sum – **thank you Dulwich Prep!** We would also like to thank **St Andrews Prep School in Berkshire** which recently hosted the annual charity hockey tournament in aid of HUGE and had a fantastic turnout with 169 players! A huge thank you to all those involved.



A HUGE Thank you to all our supporters

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all our supporters. The funding of NCLC and the Secondary School Fund is entirely reliant on charitable donations, and we now have 163 students in full time education which is thanks to your ongoing support and generosity.

The HUGE Partnership

The HUGE Partnership is UK registered charity which has been set up to make a difference to children in Uganda. It specifically provides financial and resource support to the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre, a primary school set up originally by David and Judy Batten solely to provide free education and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, who would otherwise not be able to attend school.. If you have a specific query or would like to speak to one of the Trustees please email **Mel Batten at melanie.brandon@icloud.com**.

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